

Build Reading and Math Skills at Home this Summer

By Dina Boyer, Title 1 Coordinator

Staying home means you have access to many games and activities that will help your kids build their reading and math skills. Here are some ideas of things to do at home...

Math:

Activities that you do every day can help build math skills which students can use in the classroom. Try some of these activities at home this summer...

- ❖ Family cooking time!
 - Cooking builds life skills AND helps them understand time, temperature, and fractions! It is one of the best math activities to do at home with your kids. For recipe ideas, click on the [Taste Of Home link](#) to find tasty recipes that are easy for kids and parents to make at home.
- ❖ Legos/ building blocks
 - Legos, building blocks, and other building materials give students the chance to let their imaginations go wild! They can invent things, practice planning, picturing their goals, and take the time to make their dream projects come to life. They will be practicing time management, resource allocation (deciding if they have enough blocks, how to adjust when they don't have the right pieces, etc), and they will be practicing measurement (making the tower as tall as they are, for example).
- ❖ Card games/ Dominoes
 - Card games require strategy, an understanding of rules, and a willingness to be patient and follow the rules to win. Playing games with Dominoes or a deck of playing cards also helps build math skills by working with pictures of numbers to win (matching up 2 dominoes to always get a total of 5 or 10 dots, or matching playing cards that have the same value such as a 5 of hearts and a 5 of clubs).
 - Here is a link to [13 games you can play with a deck of cards](#) and [7+ easy games to play with dominoes](#). There are dozens of other games to play with these two tools, so explore these sights and other resources to find more options.
- ❖ Puzzles

- Puzzles allow you to problem solve and use strategies to reach the clear goal of finishing re-creating the image. If you feel comfortable going thrifting, there are always puzzles for sale. You can also usually get them cheaply at stores like dollar general and online.

Reading:

There are many ways to get access to great books online for your students to build their reading skills in English and Spanish. Try exploring some of the resources below to get started...

- ❖ Get a library card
 - If you don't already explore all of the free resources your library has to offer, go to the library or [use this link to sign up for a free card at the Pottsville Library](#) online.
- ❖ Explore youtube
 - Pointing to or highlighting the words as you read aloud helps link the letters to the sounds as children listen to stories and follow along. Here is a [link to a youtube channel](#) with many stories read aloud in this way.
- ❖ Play board games
 - games like scrabble, boggle, and games where reading is essential to be successful (quiz games and other board games) will give students a reason to practice reading words and short phrases. If they can read the question cards and understand them, then they can use that skill to build on for reading other things.
- ❖ Play games online
 - There are many websites that have free activities for students to practice their letters, sounds, and other basic reading skills that they build on every year!
 - [Teach Your Monster to Read](#) is an excellent, free computer game for practicing letters and sounds through reading sentences. You create a free account, and students can save and build on their progress. An app purchase (\$2.99) is required to play it on a phone, tablet, or kindle.
 - [PBS kids.org](#) has dozens of free computer reading games to play. You can download the free PBS Kids Games app on mobile devices.
 - [Education.com](#) is a paid resource, but has dozens of resources available for free on the computer, including kids games to build early reading skills. An app purchase and subscription are required to play it on a phone, tablet, or kindle.

For more resources specific to your child, please email me at dboyer@gillinghamcharterschool.org, or call/text at 484-662-3221 during normal business hours.

Have a safe and joyful summer!